and variation between different countries. The rate for countries with the most efficient systems of registration varies between twenty and fifty still-births per thousand live births. In technically advanced countries there has been little change in the rate between 1915 and 1940, but a definite fall to about twenty-five to twenty per thousand since 1945. No country has as yet sound information on the causes of still-births, but 10 per cent to 20 per cent of still-births, that is, three to six still-births per thousand live births, are attributable to congenital malformations.

Reasonably good statistics for deaths in infancy and early childhood are also available for about half the world's population, and here fairly detailed comparisons of secular trends and geographical variation are possible. The technically advanced countries have shown a striking improvement from 200 to 100 deaths in the first year per thousand live births, to only thirty to twenty deaths over the past half century. In these countries in recent years about 20 per cent of infant deaths are attributable to congenital malformations. Deaths in the later years of childhood in these countries have shown a similar but even greater reduction. This reduction does not, however, apply to deaths in the first week, which, like still-births, have shown little fall. Many countries, however, still have very high infant and early childhood mortality rates. Four of the thirty-eight countries for which statistics are given still show over a hundred deaths in the first year per thousand live births and more than one live-born child in four dying before the age of five. In another three countries the loss is between one live-born child in five and one in four. The remaining 50 per cent of the world's population for whom no adequate statistics are available very probably fall into this group of high infant and child mortality.

It is clear that deaths after the first week of life in undeveloped countries would fall greatly with improvement in social conditions. But peri-natal deaths, that is, still-births and deaths in the first week, are much less susceptible to changes in social conditions, and the causes of most of them remain unknown.

The second volume of this Report will attempt to discover the social conditions associated with the very high reproductive wastage in undeveloped countries.

C. O. CARTER.

EVOLUTION

Le Gros Clarke, W. E. *The Fossil Evidence for Human Evolution.* Chicago, 1955. University of Chicago Press; (London, Cambridge University Press.) Pp. x + 181. Price 45s.

SINCE Darwin, the fossil history of man has never been a dead subject. It has been a playground for cranks; a field in which eminent scientists have made full use of the excellent opportunities it provides for making a fool of oneself; and a continued source of acrimonious and often futile controversy. In its latest phase there have been the important and fascinating discoveries of the *Australopithecinæ*—"missing links" which are no longer missing—and the ludicrous and discreditable story of the Sussex Woman, or Piltdown Man; as well as other developments of lesser note.

The result has been the appearance of a picture clearer then before in its outlines, but the filling in also of some rather complex and sometimes obscure detail. A truly critical and authoritative account of the subject was therefore needed, and now Professor Le Gros Clark has provided it. The author is not only a distinguished anatomist and student of the Primates, but he has also had personal access to much of the most important fossil material bearing on the evolution of our species. His experience has given him an intimate knowledge, both of the facts and of the many methodological pitfalls met in the study of human evolution. Method is indeed the subject of the important first chapter, which is especially concerned with the problems of comparative anatomy and taxonomy.

There follows a chapter on the genus *Homo*, which deals particularly with the rather

involved relationships of our " Neanderthal " cousins. Then, working back in time, we have a review of the nature and status of *Pithecanthropus* (which of course includes Pekin man), a masterly discussion of the *Australopithecinæ* — the South African remains which throw such an interesting light on the structural stages through which the immediate precursors of true men probably passed; and finally a short chapter on the origin of the *Hominidæ*.

The book is short, and, while it is based on a firm foundation of biological principles, it is confined strictly to the subject announced in the title. The evolution of the brain, and the comparative study of behaviour, both essential for the full understanding of the development of man, are consequently omitted. If the author ever felt able to double the size of the book, and to include these topics, we should be even more in his debt.

This is perhaps too much to ask. But in the second edition of the book it may be hoped that the sixty-nine footnotes, most of which are long and important, will be included in the text. Perhaps too, Professor Le Gros Clarke will then feel able to go a step or two further in rationalizing Hominid nomenclature. The subject suffers chronically from the penchant of anthropologists for taxonomic " splitting." The reviewer, being an ordinary zoologist, is on the whole a " lumper." Professor Le Gros Clarke already recommends putting all the *Australopithecinæ* (a mouthful we could do without) in the single genus *Australopithecus*. Whill, he perhaps, eventually put all the more recent Pleistocene men in *Homo*, as Mayr has proposed, and divide this genus into, perhaps, three species? He is obviously not of the school which revels in inventing a new genus every time an unusual molar turns up, on in proliferating polysyllabic Latin names with every discovery of a new minor variant. Another knotty feature of taxonomy is the question of metrical variation within a species or sub-species. We are rightly warned against fancy statistical interpretations based on inadequate evidence; but perhaps an expanded edition might include something more on the distributions of continuously variable structural characters.

There are twenty well-chosen line illustrations, and an excellent bibliography of 127 references. Despite the appalling price, many teachers, students and others will be in the author's debt for writing this book.

S. A. BARNETT.

CRIME

East, Norwood. *Sexual Offenders.* With extracts from *The Psychological Treatment of Crime* by East and Hubert, A Postscript on *Sexual Perversions* by Desmond Curran and an Epilogue by Clifford Allen. London, 1955. Delisle. Pp. 101. Price 10s. 6d.

IN this book, it is the sexual aspect of the emotional force when it is out of line either with the physical norm or the accepted socio-ethical pattern which is under consideration. In *Sexual Offenders*, the late Sir Norwood East is examining the causes and consequences of modern man's misalignment with both Nature and Society and the interrelatedness of the two.

The question immediately arises in a study of this sort, " What constitutes the normal man? " Physically speaking he is a man whose bodily development is in line with nature and her purposes. Socially speaking he is a man who has brought this body and its purposes into line with his own needs and with those of his fellow creatures. When, therefore, his physical norm is in harmony with the social ethic of his particular society, a man may be adjudged normal. To be out of tune either with Nature or Society or both constitutes abnormality. In many people this norm is never fully attained and rarely sustained but the deficiencies are so slight that adjustment is made in other ways, but with some the deviation is so great that Society has to take repressive steps in the interests of the community as a whole.

In this book the author sets out his observations resulting from many years of